INDUSTRY PROFILES

Health Care and Social Assistance Industry

July 2010

Government of Alberta
Employment and Immigration

Overview:

The Health Care and Social Assistance industry[1] in Alberta includes establishments and services such as:

- hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities and out-patient care centres;
- offices of health practitioners (i.e. dentists, doctors, optometrists and chiropractors);
- medical and diagnostic laboratories;
- home health care services;
- ambulance services;
- social assistance services (i.e. for children, youth, the elderly, families);
- community food, housing, emergency and relief services;
- vocational rehabilitation services; and
- daycare services.

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[1] North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) major group 62

Section A: Business Environment

1. 2009 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates:

	Alberta	Health Care and Social Assistance Industry
Number of employed	1,988,100	197,800
Percent employed in the industry		9.9%
Number of unemployed	139,700	3,300
Unemployment rate	6.6%	1.6%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2009, Statistics Canada

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, please go to the Labour Force Statistics[2] or Statistics Canada[3] websites.

2. Industry Growth:

- Employment in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry is expected to grow on average 1.7% annually from 2010 to 2013.
- Approximately 13,800 jobs will be created in the projection period. Employment is expected to increase to 211,600 by 2013.
- This industry is expected to provide 7.8% of all new jobs in Alberta between 2010 and 2013.

For more information, see the Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2009 – 2013, Industry Employment Outlook[4] online and the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS)[5] website's industry descriptions.

[2] See http://www.employment.alberta.ca/BI/67.html
[3] See http://www.statcan.gc.ca
[4] See http://www.employment.alberta.ca/documents/LMI/LMI-LMF_2009-13_cops.pdf
[5] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

Trends and Outlook

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Health Care and Social Assistance industry accounted for 5.2% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2009, up from 4.1% in 1999. This industry was the second largest employer in 2009 and its share of Alberta's total employment increased from 9.3% in 1999 to 9.9% in 2009.

Employment in 2009 was 4.0% higher than it was in 2008. Over the last ten years, employment has increased from 143,200 people in 1999 to 197,800 people in 2009.

The *Alberta Occupational Demand Outlook: 2009-2013* projects continued labour demand for Physicians, dentists and veterinarians; Nurse supervisors and registered nurses; Therapy and assessment professionals; Technical occupations in dental health care; Medical technologists and technicians; and Assisting occupations in support of health services. Managers in health, social and community services should experience above average growth in demand over the projection period.

3. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry:

Establishment Size	Alberta Businesses		Health Care and Social Assistance Establishments	
	Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	561,300	34.3%	48,800	28.1%
20 to 99 employees	582,500	35.6%	52,700	30.3%
100 to 500 employees	298,700	18.3%	35,500	20.4%
Over 500 employees	194,000	11.9%	36,800	21.2%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2009, Statistics Canada

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Note: Statistics Canada's survey methodology for determining establishment size differs from the one it uses in the Labour Force Survey to determine total employment. As a result, the total number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the industry, except by coincidence.

Section B: Human Resources Profile

1. Occupational Information:

Some examples of occupations in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry include:

- chiropractor;
- dental hygienist;
- emergency medical technician;
- registered nurse; and
- child and youth care worker.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry as well as detailed information on education and skill requirements, visit the Alberta Occupational Profiles[6] website.

2. Demographics: Age and Gender:

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry is as follows:

- women employed: 167,700 people, or 84.7%
- men employed: 30,200 people, or 15.3%

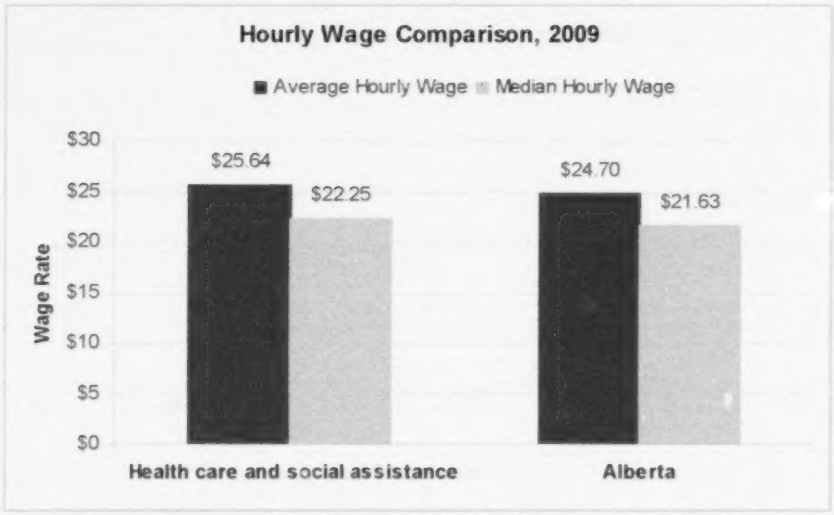
In Alberta, women accounted for 45.4% and men made up 54.6% of total employment.

Age Characteristics	Alberta Employees		Health Care and Social Assistance Employees	
	Number	%	Number	%
15-24 years	316,400	15.9%	20,400	10.3%
25-54 years	1,356,400	68.2%	141,900	71.7%
55 years and over	315,300	15.9%	35,600	18.0%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2009, Statistics Canada

[6] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo

3. Wages:



Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2009, Statistics Canada
Note: The average hourly wage is obtained by dividing the sum of the wages of all the employees by the total number of employees. The median hourly wage is that wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Occupation	Average Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
	Starting Average	Overall Average	Top Average	
Cardiology technologist	$ 25.60	$ 30.77	$ 33.03	$ 62,087
Registered nurse	$ 30.33	$ 37.36	$ 40.43	$ 72,377
Pathologist	$ 47.63	$ 61.68	$ 80.96	$ 113,571
Social worker	$ 26.44	$ 31.61	$ 35.03	$ 62,446

Data Source: 2009 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For more information on wages, refer to the WAGEinfo[7] webpage. For descriptions, duties, required skills and education for specific occupations in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry, visit the ALIS[8] website.

[7] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo
[8] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

Section C: Additional Information

1. Links to Government and Selected Industry Associations:

- Alberta Health and Wellness
  (http://www.health.alberta.ca)
- Alberta Health Services
  (http://www.albertahealthservices.ca)
- Alberta Association of Optometrists
  (http://www.optometrists.ab.ca)
- Alberta Association of Registered Nurses
  (http://www.nurses.ab.ca)
- Alberta Continuing Care Association
  (http://www.longtermcare.ab.ca)
- Alberta Medical Association
  (http://www.albertadoctors.org)
- Alberta Dental Association and College
  (http://www.abda.ab.ca)
- Alberta Union of Provincial Employees
  (http://www.aupe.org/my-union/health-care)
- Canadian Union of Public Employees
  (http://www.cupe.ca)
- Health Sciences Association of Alberta
  (http://www.hsaa.ca)
- United Nurses of Alberta
  (http://www.una.ab.ca)

2. Link to Government Library Database:

http://www.servicelink.gov.ab.ca/libraries/workplace